

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application Serial No. 10/702,082
Attorney Docket No. Q77943

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-3 and 8-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 10 are amended, and claims 4-7 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is presented.

The outstanding objection and rejections are traversed, as discussed below.

Claim Objections

Applicant has amended claim 10 to address the informality noted by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is therefore requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kishida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,357,268, hereinafter “Kishida”). Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that Kishida fails to teach or suggest all the features of claims 1-3 and 8-9, as evidenced by the following.

For instance, Applicant submits that Kishida fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of internal wiring in the first attachment unit between the second upper-contact point and the third lower-contact point is shifted so that a position of the first upper-contact point in the first upstream-side connector is identical to a position of the third upper-contact point in the second upstream-side connector, as recited by claim 1. By virtue of this feature, in each of the attachment units, the position of the contact point which is wired to the controlled element of its

own is identical. Thus, either one of the first attachment unit or the second attachment unit, as defined by claim 1, can be connected to the main section, and the first attachment unit and the second attachment unit can therefore be used interchangeably. Applicant notes that the above-mentioned features are described, for example, at least at page 12, line 12 to page 13, line 23 in the specification and shown in Fig. 2.

Kishida, by contrast, simply teaches an ink jet recorder circuit which has a power supply 121 for the head drive, a timing generation circuit 122, a recording data/drive timing generation circuit 123, a recording data division generation circuit 124, electric/thermal transducer 102 and recording head drive integrated circuits (IC's) 103, among other elements. *See* Kishida at col. 8, line 53 - col. 9, line 9 and Fig. 8. However, Kishida fails to suggest shifting of the internal wiring in the first attachment unit, as claimed. Indeed, the Examiner alleges that “recording head IC's 103 with corresponding transducers 102” correspond to “a plurality of attachment units” in rejecting the previously recited form of claim 1. However, Kishida does not teach internal wiring of a first attachment unit, as claimed, nor does Kishida suggest any modification of the wiring of the head drive circuit from that illustrated in Figure 8.

Thus, as evidenced by the foregoing, Kishida fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of internal wiring in the first attachment unit between the second upper-contact point and the third lower-contact point is shifted so that a position of the first upper-contact point in the first upstream-side connector is identical to a position of the third upper-contact point in the second upstream-side connector, as claimed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is requested.

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Regarding claims 2-3 and 8-10, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency and by virtue of the features recited therein.

With respect to claims 4-6, Applicant submits that the rejection of these claims is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 4-6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kishida in view of Fleming et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,100,597), and claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kishida in view of Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 4,366,489) in view of Reed et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,720,798).

With respect to claim 7, Applicant submits that this ground of rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

With respect to claim 10, Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that claim 10 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

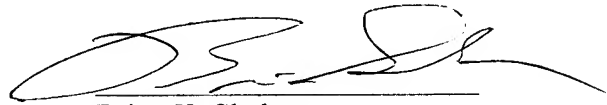
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



Brian K. Shelton
Registration No. 50,245

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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